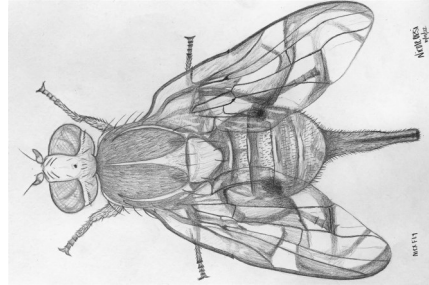


San Diego County Entomology Newsletter



SUMMER 2022

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Mexican Fruit Fly by N. Orsi

Invasive Pest Alert — Cotton Seed Bug

Cotton Seed Bug (*Oxycarenus hyalinipennis*) Hemiptera: Oxycarinidae, A-rated) has been found in several locations throughout the county through reports from local Community College classes and from follow-ups to iNaturalist posts. This insect is especially concerning for its potential destructive feeding impact on commercial cotton *Gossypium* spp. production, as a pest of landscape Malvaceae, including species of hibiscus and mallow, and rare native plants in this family. It has previously been found in Los Angeles and nearby counties, but was not previously thought to be established in the USA. The insect is a small, brown bug, with few distinctive features; it may be more widely distributed than official records indicate. More information on the history and impact of this pest is available in CDFA's Pest Rating Proposal: https://blogs.cdфа.ca.gov/Section3162/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/PRP2019-Oxycarenus_Profile_ADA.pdf



Cotton seed bug (*Oxycarenus hyalinipennis*, Hemiptera: Lygaeidae). Photo: S. Wolf

Apiary Program

Jaime Garza, Sr. Agricultural/Standards Inspector, spoke at the World Bee Day event at Balboa Park on topics including beekeeping regulations, defensive bees, and bee safety. Participating groups included: The Natural History Museum, CA Native Plant Society, Air & Space Museum, Hives for Heroes, SD Seed Swap, Lemon Grove Garden and Nature Club, SD Beekeeping Society, Write Out Loud Kamishibai Storybox, and Dr. James Nieh's research laboratory (UCSD). The County Administrative Center building was also lit orange and yellow for Pollinator Week.



Apiary Program expert Jaime Garza, assisted by Agricultural Scientist Dr. Bodil Cass, speaking at the World Bee Day event in Balboa Park. Photo: J. Cass

Lab Updates & Acknowledgements

Congratulations to Sr. Agricultural/Standards Inspector Bill Walsh on his retirement, after five years of service with the County. Bill worked courageously for the COVID response team reassignment during 2020, employing his knowledge of organizational operations to assist the community. He was a lead inspector for the Neglected and Abandoned Citrus Groves program, and always available to assist the Lab and Apiary Program with daily tasks, from finding replacement magnifier lens lightbulbs, to chasing down honey bee complaints, reorganizing our outreach supplies in the warehouse and taking on the book inventory. We are happy for Bill's retirement plans, and will greatly miss his support around campus. Thank you for your responsibility, dedication, thoughtfulness, amazing cooking, and contribution to protecting our local agricultural industries, environment and residents. Cheers, Bill! A small retirement lunch gathering was held on campus.



Sr. Agricultural/Standards Inspectors Jaime Garza (left) and Bill Walsh (right) at the Pollinator Week booth at the County Operations Center, with a display featuring work by the county Apiary Program including microscope viewing of honey bee pests and diseases, pollinator display box, and example bee hive box. Photo: B. Cass

Contact the Lab or Apiary Program

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